

For 85 years, the Joliet Park District has played an integral role in the lives of its residents. The park district has enriched the lives of residents in a variety of areas providing opportunities for fitness, entertainment, and recreation as well as serving as an example for environmental stewardship.

Partnering with Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center, the park district runs the Saint Joseph Inwood Athletic Club. The center was recognized with the Community Partnership Award for Youth Fitness from the Illinois Department of Human Services. It is also known as a state-of-the art work of architecture.

The Joliet Park District provides fun for all ages. Nearly 1,500 children participated in the district's youth soccer program. Residents may also participate in basketball, baseball, volleyball, softball, hockey, and golf. Splash Station Water Park is a place where over 300,000 persons choose to escape the heat and 2,000 persons received swimming lessons. World-class musicians have entertained young and old at the annual Taste of Joliet.

Due to its commitment to a better environment, Joliet Park District has received grants from the State of Illinois. The district received an Illinois Clean Energy Grant for an upgrade to its multi-purpose building that included energy efficient lighting. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources contributed to the completion of its Bird Haven Greenhouse.

Once again, congratulations to the Joliet Park District. I know this treasured institution will continue to prosper.

CONGRATULATING PHOENIX ANALYSIS & DESIGN INCORPORATED ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of Phoenix Analysis & Design Technologies Incorporated, a mechanical engineering company in my home town of Tempe, Arizona.

Phoenix Analysis & Design was established in 1994 and has since become an important member of the Arizona business community. It has served as a leading consultant and provider of mechanical engineering services in the Southwest for fifteen years and continually sets the standard for excellent customer service.

The business thrives because it is committed to innovation and employee participation. It has increased its employment base from the initial four founders to 50 employees, and the personal integrity of each employee shines brightly with their timely and efficient service. Each member of the company is extremely talented and continually strives to master the new technologies of their field.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value, that place would be Phoenix Analysis & Design Technologies.

The success and longevity of this local company is a model for independent businesses. It is for these reasons and more that I ask you to join me in congratulating Phoenix Analysis & Design on this accomplishment and wish

them many more years of prosperous business.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the House passed version of H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division B, COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of Anderson, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 S. Main St, PO Box 8002, Anderson, SC 29622

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$50,000 to be used in implementing 800 megahertz radio technology for emergency responders. The nine EMS providers in Anderson County responded to approximately 21,000 calls for assistance in 2008 and the numbers increase each year. By converting over to the Palmetto P25 / 800mhz interoperable communications system, EMS squads will experience approximately 95% radio coverage when responding to calls. With the current VHF radio system, EMS squads now have only approximately 65% radio coverage within Anderson County. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division E, EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 399, Seneca, SC 29679

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$500,000 to be used for the construction of 125,000 GPD Phase I Wastewater Treatment Facility at Golden Corner Commerce Park and upgrade of wastewater treatment plant to 100,000 GPD at SC Welcome Center. Infrastructure added to this region provides for job creation, enhanced investment and development resulting in an improved economy. In addition to federal funding, the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority has secured a \$1 million grant from the state, and approximately \$2.8 million from county government to fund the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clemson University

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 Sikes Hall, Clemson, SC 29634

Description of Request: I have secured \$100,000 for the Clemson University Ad-

vanced Materials Innovation Center. The Advanced Materials Innovation Center at Clemson's Advanced Materials Center in Anderson County will serve as a research and development campus for start-up companies devoted to cutting-edge research, development, and job creation in the advanced materials field. The Innovation Center will house fledgling high-technology companies that focus on such advanced materials as optics, nanotechnology, and biomaterials. It will also provide space for entrepreneurial start-ups and Clemson University spin-off companies. These federal funds will be used to develop laboratories at the Advanced Materials Innovation Center. With many manufacturing jobs going overseas, there is a critical need in the United States, and particularly in South Carolina, of incubators such as the Advanced Materials Innovation Center to accelerate the creation of knowledge-based companies. The United States must also continue to develop new advanced materials to ensure continued military superiority. It is my understanding that \$9.5 million in funding is expected to be provided by non-federal sources for this project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division C, Title III Department of Energy, Section: Congressional Directed Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clemson University

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Brackett Hall Box 5702 Clemson University Clemson, SC 29634

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$951,500 in funding to construct and operate a pilot plant at a brownfield industrial site in Charleston, SC, to scale-up commercially viable technology for conversion of cellulosic feedstocks from the coastal plains, i.e. trees, wood residuals, and row crops, to bio-fuels and other higher value products. Currently, biofuels are the only alternative that can be readily incorporated into the existing petroleum-based transportation infrastructure. The development of commercially-viable biomass facilities will help our nation move away from dependency on traditional fossil fuels and towards energy independence, all without affecting our nation's food supply. Approximately \$50,000 (5%) will go towards site utilities/grading; \$680,000 (71%) will go towards building structure; and the remainder (24%) will go towards process equipment, support utility systems and construction fees.

In addition to federal funding, Clemson University will contribute in-kind and financial resources, including over \$1.5 million in resources already committed. It is also expected that private industry will provide a total of \$6-8 million for the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Laurens County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Catherine Street, Laurens, SC 29360

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$285,000 in funding to widen approximately 5,400 linear feet of U.S. Highway 221 between the Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and the City of Laurens. This highway improvement project will allow for increased volume and greater safety for commuter and truck traffic to and from the expanding Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and surrounding areas. The Industrial Site plays an important role in the economic development of Laurens County. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to this federal funding, Laurens will be providing approximately \$333,000 for the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$95,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Interstate Maintenance, Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$950,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower

Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, despite many severe misgivings I have with the legislation.

Last night the President gave us a frank and candid assessment of the dire situation of our economy, and I remain committed to ensuring that appropriations bills reflect an appropriate federal response. This bill will strengthen the social safety net so that individuals and families that have been affected by the recession can meet their daily needs. This bill includes substantial and badly needed increases in funding for food assistance to combat starvation and malnutrition in the elderly and those of modest income.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been inundated by a surge in unemployment claims. Constituents have called my office to tell me that they cannot even get through on the phone to speak to someone about their claim. Facing such an extraordinary increase in demand, I am glad that the states will get some help. The bill increases funding by 10% for state offices to process this surge in unemployment claims.

Cleveland, unfortunately, has been at the epicenter of the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis. The number of foreclosures continues to increase; some neighborhoods still average two foreclosures per day. Up to 6,000 voucher holders have yet to find affordable housing in Cuyahoga County—and this does not include the estimated 19,000 people who qualify for vouchers but are forced to endure a years-long waiting list.

The bill increases overall funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 10%. This includes increases in funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund to keep the doors open in our existing public housing, the Public Housing Capital Fund to build new public housing, and tenant- and project-based voucher programs. The bill also increases funding for homeless assistance grants.

The bill provides several other funding increases in areas of particular need for Northeast Ohio. There is \$187 million dedicated to making emergency communication more reliable through interoperability funding. There is a \$385 million increase in funding for NASA, an economic anchor for the region and the state. There is \$273 million for research on more fuel-efficient vehicles, which will help our ailing auto industry and the other industries on which it relies. There is \$40.7 billion in infrastructure funding, a \$484 million increase over

FY08 levels and an integral part of Northeast Ohio's economic recovery.

However, I am deeply saddened and frustrated by sections of the State and Foreign Operations portion of this bill that continue counterproductive policies regarding the Middle East and drug policy. I am hopeful that with the leadership of President Obama a new U.S. policy on the Middle East will emerge. It is time for the U.S. to move beyond the biased policy contained in this portion of the bill.

The surest way for this body to ensure the safety and security of Israel while encouraging peace in the Middle East is to craft a policy that encourages Israel to end the blockade of Gaza and the occupation of Palestinian lands. The U.S. must also call on Israel to implement a freeze on settlement building.

Instead this bill undermines any effort to position the U.S. as an honest broker for peace in the region. The bill gives \$75 million in funding for aid to be shared between Gaza and the West Bank while giving \$2.4 billion in grants for Israel including \$670 million for procurement of military equipment alone. Adding to this extreme imbalance, the bill also places far more restrictions on the humanitarian aid to Gaza than on the arms funding for Israel. If the U.S. was an honest broker of peace, the reverse would be true. The United Nations has declared in no uncertain terms that peace in the Middle East, which is the best way for Israel to achieve security, cannot be achieved militarily. By favoring arms over aid, this bill takes us in the wrong direction during a time when relations between Gaza and Israel are particularly strained.

This bill also includes funding for counter-narcotics initiatives in Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia, and other regions in Latin America, continuing supply-side interdiction efforts that have done nothing to disturb the flow of illicit drugs into our country. Research clearly demonstrates that money directed to domestic demand-reduction efforts—drug treatment, drug abuse prevention, youth intervention programs, and the like—is more effective at reducing drug consumption and curtailing the flow of illicit drugs into the country. Moreover, such efforts usually increase the price of drugs in circulation, which only leads to increased violence and crime in communities. So long as the demand for a product exists, enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get the drugs to those addicted to them.

I support this bill because the needs of my district come first, and the money in this bill will go far toward alleviating the stress on my constituents and my district caused by the economic downturn. However, I find it reprehensible that I am also forced to support these other provisions, and I look forward to working with leadership and the Administration to support policies that engage all parties and encourage peace rather than aggression.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we are pleased to introduce the Patent Reform Act of 2009. The Patent Reform Act of 2009